

Soil Quality

A foundation for pastureland health and productivity

What is the soil doing for you?

Pastureland soil quality affects:

- Plant production
- Plant reproduction
- Plant mortality
- Erosion potential
- Vegetation composition
- Water availability and water quality
- Wildlife habitat
- Carbon sequestration

For more information about soil quality, go to <http://soils.usda.gov/sqi>

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What are you doing for the soil?

To protect soil function and pasture condition:

- Maintain vigorous cover on the soil
- Increase or maintain plant production
- Practice rotational grazing to promote root growth
- Practice rotational grazing to evenly distribute manure
- Minimize grazing traffic when the soil is wet
- Maintain pH for desirable plants
- Control weeds to protect desirable plants
- Assess and monitor soil quality and vegetation
for early indication of changes in soil function
and pastureland condition.